

Join M•A•Y Club

MONTANA ANGLING YOUTH

- Anyone preschool through elementary can join!
- No meetings to attend, just get great stuff by mail!
- Receive fun newsletters at your home filled with information, tips, & games!
- Get cool fishing tackle and outdoor items you can use right away!
- Learn about fishing and the water environment!
- Write us and share your fishing tips, fishing photos, and fish stories with kids around Montana. (Please write and draw **in pen or in VERY DARK pencil**.)

Mail or drop off your letters or registration to:

M•A•Y Club

MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, Montana 59901

KIDS:

If you are getting this newsletter, you are already a member, so share this registration form with a friend who might want to join!

Registration Form

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

M•A•Y Club
NEWSLETTER
is published by



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**



M•A•Y Club

490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, Montana 59901-3854

PRSTD STD
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KALISPELL, MT
59901-3854

(Or current resident)

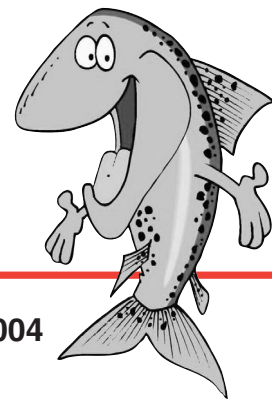
ADOPT A FISH

If your classroom at school does not have an aquarium, but you've always wanted some fish, here is a way for you to get close to some unique Montana fish: your class can adopt them over the internet!

The fish you can adopt include species like pallid sturgeon, blue suckers, paddlefish, and shovel-nose sturgeon. Most people in Montana have never even seen these types of fish- so this is a great chance for you to adopt one and learn all about it. All you have to do is ask your teacher to log onto <http://www.walleysunlimited.com/adopt-fish/home.html> and sign up your class. You'll get to choose your fish, and even name them. The fish will be fitted with radio transmitters, and you can follow their movements throughout the spring. It's a great way to learn about some very special Montana fish.

M•A•Y Club

MONTANA ANGLING YOUTH



Spring 2004

You are now
one of **4,000**
M•A•Y Club
Members!!

Feature Fish – Brown Trout

Where did your family come from?

Maybe you have just moved to Montana from another state, or maybe you have lived here all your life. Were your grandparents born here? How about your great-grandparents? For most of us, our families came to Montana from some other state, or maybe even from another country. That's also the story for our feature fish, the Brown Trout. If you lived in Germany and caught a brown trout, you would call it a Bachforrelle.

Brown trout, or browns as they are commonly known, are not native to Montana. They were brought to the state

from Europe and first stocked in the Madison River in 1889. Sometimes you may still hear someone call them a "German brown" since that was one of the places where they were originally found.

Browns are members of the trout and salmon family, which has lots of other members in Montana. Brown trout have adapted very well here, and are very popular with anglers across the state. But bringing brown trout to Montana has also caused some problems. Other trout, like the native cutthroat, cannot compete very well with brown trout. Browns are aggressive, and sometimes will chase cutthroats out of good spots to live in a stream or river.

Trout are considered "cold-water" fish, which means that they survive best in cool and cold water, and can-

not live in places where the water gets too warm for them. Brown trout are better at surviving in water that is a little too warm for other kinds of Montana trout. They also seem to prefer places in streams and rivers where the water moves a little slower than the rest of the current. Like some other trout though, they also do very well living in lakes and reservoirs.

Montana's trout lay their eggs, or spawn, at different times of

the year. Rainbows and cutthroats spawn in the spring or early summer,

and brook trout and bull trout spawn in the fall. Brown trout also spawn in the fall, and the timing of their spawning season might be one way in which they have adapted well to Montana. By spawning in the fall, the eggs and small trout spend the first few months of their life in the streams when the water is cold, and drought is not likely to affect them. Spring spawning trout have a more difficult time, since their young sometimes have to cope with low water from a drought in their first few months.

One way in which browns are different from other Montana trout is their diet. Trout are known by an-

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Look Here!

- 1 A trout that likes to jacuzzi?
- 2 Ice that doesn't float?
- 2 Young Artists
- 3 Who wins the Maggot Races?
- 3 Your poems and art!
- 4 Adopt a Fish



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

M.A.Y Club

MONTANA ANGLING YOUTH

Brown Trout

continued from cover

glers for eating lots of small insects. But brown trout, especially big brown trout, seem to pass on eating little bugs, and instead, seem to have an appetite for other fish. Big brown trout also like to eat at night, after most of the anglers have gone home. So a big brown trout can be one of the most difficult fish in the state to fool.

If you go fishing for brown trout, there are lots of different ways to catch them. Lures like spinners and small plugs can tempt a big brown into biting, but make sure you use lightweight, thin fishing line; remember how smart those fish can be. Live bait like worms and minnows can work very well too, just check the current fishing regulations to be sure it is legal to use live bait where you would like to fish. If you are a flyfisher, there are lots of flies out there that might fool a brown trout. Flies that imitate insects might work, but to catch a big brown trout you'll probably need to use a streamer, or some other fly to imitate a small fish, or something like a big juicy leech.

So once fishing season opens, grab your anglute (fishing rod) and a few angelhakens (fishhooks) and get outside to go Forellenangeln (trout fishing) and try and find a big old Bachforrelle (brown trout). You may live in Montana, but you'll be looking for a fish that came to our state from Germany.

Anchor Ice

By Mark Henckel, Billings Gazette

Yes, ice can form on the bottom of a flowing stream.

Normally, ice just forms on the top of the water when it gets cold outside. Ice naturally floats. But during long periods of really severe cold, the cold from the frozen ground on the stream banks will begin to creep under the stream bed.

At times like this, ice will form on the ground and rocks under the water. This ice is called "anchor ice," perhaps because it's anchored to the stream bottom.

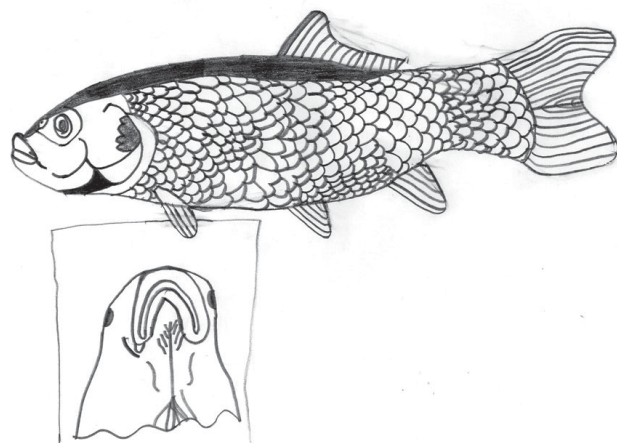
This anchor ice can harm insect nymphs which live in the mud and beneath the rocks in a stream. It might even trap small fish. It may also hurt bigger fish which lose a portion of their food supply.

For people who want to fish or just wade across a stream, anchor ice can be a real hazard at this time of year. The stream bottom becomes extremely slippery underfoot. And believe me, bitter-cold winter is no time to stumble and fall and take an unplanned swim.

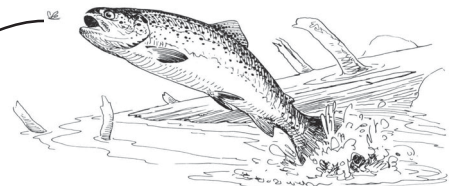
Young Artist Focuses on Fish

A letter from one of our readers: My name is Ryan Edkin. I live in Rimini. I like drawing, fishing, hiking, and skiing. At the age of six, I learned to tie flies. For over a year, I have been coloring fish from outlines found from outlines found on the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' Cd-rom (fishes of Montana). I like to fish with the flies I tie and with the flies my grandpa has given me. Editor's note: Ryan is a very good artist. Check out one of his pictures below.

BIG-MOUTH # BUFFALO



Hooked ON FISHING



Fish

Green, lean
swimming, biting,
diving
Always having fun!
Fish!

Art & Poem by
Kate Gunderson

Fish

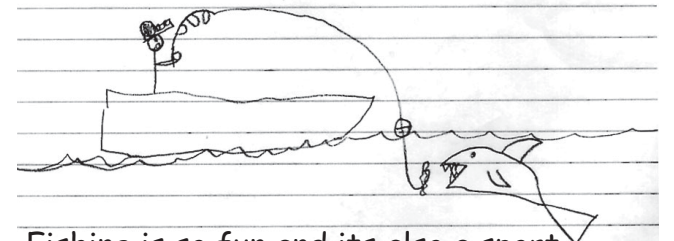
Fierce, frightening
Gliding, jetting,
jumping
Swimming and
eating in schools
GRACEFUL!

Dakota Skariason
Grade 4, Hedges

Fish

Big, scaly
Swimming, jumping, eating
Always swimming together
PERCH!
Nelson Fortenberry, Hedges

FISHING IS FUN!



Fishing is so fun and its also a sport.
Fishing is simple, these are your tools a
fishing rod, boat, tackle box, lures and
fishing license. I just love FISHING!!!

Art & Poem by Ed Wright Grade 4

Maggot Races



Although we might not like to see them during the rest of the year, during the winter, maggots become very popular with some people in Montana. That's because they are such a good bait to use for catching trout and perch through the ice. Maggots are larva from different kinds of flies, and fish love to eat them.

Ask your Mom or Dad to help you conduct an experiment with maggots by keeping a few and seeing how long it takes for them to undergo a **metamorphosis**, or change, into an adult fly.

If you notice that you have some especially active maggots, you might want to hold a maggot race. To race your maggots, take a sheet of paper and draw a circle about the size of your hand, set two maggots into the center of the circle, and see which one crawls outside the circle first.

You might notice that different temperatures in the room affect the speed of the maggots. Remember that they are not warm blooded like humans and other mammals, so the colder that they are, the slower they will move. If you take them inside and let them warm up, they will move faster. Be sure to ask your Mom or Dad before you start bringing maggots into your bedroom to train them for the next big race!

Fish

Slippery, slimy
Swimming, jetting,
gliding
Jetting through the
water
like a torpedo,

SWORDFISH!

Poem & Art by Siri Wheeler
Grade 4 Hedges

